IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The specification as amended below with replacement paragraphs shows added text with underlining and deleted text with strikethrough.

Please REPLACE paragraph [0010] with the following paragraph:

[0010]   The above aspects can be attained by a method of processing resource acquisition requests, including scheduling execution of the resource acquisition requests in accordance with user configurable metering. Preferably, the resource acquisition requests are sorted into queues with at least one queue for read requests and at least one queue for write requests. At least one other queue may be provided for metadata resource acquisition requests. Preferably, metering of the resource acquisition requests is configured in response to input from an administrator of the system[[.]], by specifying a first number of read requests to be performed for a second number of write requests, as long as there are both read and write requests that are queued. Preferably, a maximum number of threads are established for executing resource acquisition requests in response to the input from the administrator.